

**SPECIAL MEETING
EDUCATION ACHIEVEMENT AUTHORITY**

X **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

X **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Date: March 13, 2014
Time: 4:00 PM
Location: Wayne County Community College (WCCCD)
1001 West Fort Street (Downtown Campus)
The Frank Hayden Community Room, #236
Detroit, Michigan 48226

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairperson Murray at 4:00 PM. Vice Chairperson Murray reminded the Board and the public that this was an EAA Joint Board of Directors and Executive Committee meeting.

I. Roll Call

Vice Chairperson Murray asked Tyrone Winfrey to call the roll of the Board of Directors.

Carol Goss, Chairperson*	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent
Joyce Hayes-Giles, Director	<input type="checkbox"/> Present	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Absent
Michael Morris, Director*	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent
Mark Murray, Director	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent
William Pickard*, Director*	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent
Roy Roberts, Director	<input type="checkbox"/> Present	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Absent
Kim Schatzel, Director	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent
Shirley Stancato, Director	<input type="checkbox"/> Present	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Absent
Mary Treder-Lang, Director	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent
Dr. Timothy Wood, Director	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent

*Directors present via conference call.

A quorum of the EAA Board of Directors was determined at 4:00 p.m. Vice Chairperson Murray asked Tyrone Winfrey to call the roll of the Executive Committee Members.

Executive Committee Attendance:

Carol Goss, Chairperson*	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent
Michael Morris*, Director*	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent
Mark Murray, Director	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent
William Pickard*, Director*	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent
Roy Roberts, Director	<input type="checkbox"/> Present	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Absent

*Executive Committee Members present via conference call.

A quorum of the EAA Executive Committee was determined at 4:02 p.m. Vice Chairperson Murray introduced and welcomed our new EAA Board Members Joyce Hayes-Giles, Dr. Kim Schatzel, Mary Treder-Lang and Dr. Timothy Wood. He also encouraged them to visit EAA schools to attain a more detailed overview of the EAA.

Vice Chairperson Murray acknowledged the passing of prior EAA Board Member Reverend Dr. Joseph Jordan on February 3, 2014. Chairperson Goss thanked Vice Chairperson Murray and added that Reverend Dr. Jordan was greatly influential in the community and that he would truly be missed.

II. Approval of Agenda

Vice Chairperson Murray suggested a modification to the Agenda. He asked to move the Chancellor's Update on the EAA Board Meeting Agenda. This was necessary in order to ensure that a quorum of the Executive Committee was available to vote on all Action Items. As a result, the Chancellor's Update was to be given upon completion of all Old and New Business.

Vice Chairperson Murray then asked for a motion to approve the agenda with this update.

Motion: Member Wood

Support: Member Treder-Lang

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

The motion was carried.

III. Old Business

Vice Chairperson Murray asked for a motion to approve the EAA Audit Committee Meeting Minutes of December 3, 2013.

Motion: Member Schatzel

Support: Chairperson Goss

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

The motion was carried.

Vice Chairperson Murray asked for a motion to approve the EAA Board Meeting Minutes of December 3, 2013.

Motion: Member Schatzel

Support: Chairperson Goss

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

The motion was carried.

IV. New Business

a) Executive Committee Action Items:

i. Resolution 2014-01: Approval of Human Capital Report

Vice Chairperson Murray asked Chancellor Covington to review Resolution 2014-01: Approval of Human Capital Report. Chancellor Covington introduced Michelle Crockett, Esq., and indicated that she would be providing a more thorough discussion /presentation on the following:

- Announcement of Veronica Conforme, EAA Operations Consultant
- Update on recruitment processes and procedures for staff
- Preliminary Analysis on EAA staff resignations and terminations to date
- Update on Reason for Carey Tenkel's departure from the EAA

Vice Chairperson Murray suggested more information on why employees are leaving the EAA. Chairperson Goss inquired as to the process utilized to obtain information on staff departures and asked that Michelle Crockett provide additional information in that regard at the next EAA Board meeting.

Vice Chairperson Murray asked the EAA Executive Committee if there were any questions. There were none.

Vice Chairperson Murray asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2014-01: Approval of Human Capital Report.

Motion: Member Goss

Support: Member Pickard

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

The motion was carried.

ii. Resolution 2014-02: Approval of Proposal to Enter into a Master Services Agreement with STEM Smart Lab Environments

Vice Chairperson Murray asked Chancellor Covington to review Resolution 2014-02: Approval of Proposal to Enter into a Master Services Agreement with STEM Smart Lab Environments. Chancellor Covington introduced Robert Brooks, Executive Leadership Coach, for an overview of the following.

- Curriculum Modules
- Learning Launchers
- Alignment of Common Core and Other Standards
- Screen Assessment
- Professional Development – 1 Facilitator in Each Building
- Financial Commitment
- The Next Generation

Vice Chairperson Murray asked if there were any questions. Chairperson Goss asked about a capacity concern. Vice Chairperson Murray clarified Chairperson Goss' question as the phone line was inaudible at this time. Robert Brooks provided additional information about the capacity available at the applicable school buildings.

Vice Chairperson Murray questioned the EAA's technology and ability to support the STEM Smart Labs. Vice Chairperson clarified this for Chairperson Goss again as the phone line was inaudible. Robert Brooks provided additional information about technology and the EAA's capacity in that regard.

Chairperson Goss questioned whether Title I dollars would be utilized to pay for the Smart Labs. Chancellor Covington reviewed. Vice Chairperson Murray asked about the funding source. Robert Brooks stated that the SIG Grant will cover the cost of the Smart Labs being installed at Bethune and 25 percent of the cost at Mumford. Chairperson Goss asked for more clarification Chairperson Goss about the terms of the Master Services Agreement. Michelle Crockett reviewed a proposed term sheet located in the EAA Board Meeting Packet and further indicated that the actual terms of the Master Services Agreement were still be negotiated with the vendor.

Vice Chairperson Murray asked if there were any more questions. There were none.

Vice Chairperson Murray asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2014-02: Approval of Proposal to enter into a Master Services Agreement with STEM Smart Lab Environments.

Motion: Member Pickard

Support: Chairperson Goss

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

The motion was carried.

iii. Resolution 2014-03: Approval to hire Marie Miller as an Independent Contractor.

Vice Chairperson Murray asked Chancellor Covington to review Resolution 2014-03: Approval to hire Marie Miller as an Independent Contractor. Chancellor reviewed and introduced Dr. MiUndrae Prince who gave an overview of the scope of work to be performed by Ms. Miller for the EAA.

Vice Chairperson Murray asked questions about the scope and size of the contract. Dr. Prince explained that this position would be ongoing and that Ms. Miller would be helping to ensure compliance with Title I funding processes. Vice Chairperson Murray asked about Marie Miller's expertise in this area and further inquired where she was from. Dr. Prince provided additional information as to Ms. Miller's background and experience with Title I funding, and further explained that Ms. Miller resided in Michigan.

Vice Chairperson Murray asked if there were any additional questions. There were none.

Vice Chairperson Murray made a motion to approve Resolution 2014-03: Approval to hire Marie Miller as an Independent Contractor.

Motion: Member Morris

Support: Member Pickard

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

The motion was carried.

iv. Resolution 2014-04: Certification of Compliance with Best Practice Requirements for submission of application to the State for Best Practices Incentive Grant.

Vice Chairperson Murray asked Chancellor Covington to review Resolution 2014-04: Certification of Compliance with Best Practice Requirements for submission of application to the State for Best Practices Incentive Grant. Chancellor Covington discussed and introduced Dr. Mary Esselman who continued with an overview of the requirements the EAA must meet in order to qualify as a grant recipient.

Vice Chairperson Murray asked about the likelihood of receiving the monies. Dr. Esselman provided additional information in this regard.

Vice Chairperson Murray asked if there were any additional questions. There were none.

Vice Chairperson Murray made a motion to approve Resolution 2014-04: Certification of Compliance with Best Practice Requirements for submission of application to the State for Best Practices Incentive Grant.

Motion: Chairperson Goss

Support: Member Morris

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

The motion was carried.

v. Resolution 2014-05: Approval of Purchase of 3,000 Computers

Vice Chairperson Murray asked Chancellor Covington to review Resolution 2014-05: Approval of Purchase of 3,000 Computers. Chancellor Covington introduced Harry Pianko who continued with an overview of the following items.

- The estimated cost of each computer being \$425.00

- Aggregate amount of the purchase estimated at 1.8 million dollars, noting that negotiations with vendor(s) were ongoing in this regard
- The inclusion of computer carts being included in this purchase
- Use of computers by students at home

Vice Chairperson Murray asked about the status of the current computers being utilized by students as well as the current technological infrastructure of EAA schools. Harry Pianko discussed. Member Wood asked about the option of laptops on carts as well as wireless internet access. Harry Pianko discussed. Member Wood asked about laptop repair for the computers currently being utilized by EAA students and Member Schatzel asked about the length of usage for the proposed new computers. Chairperson Goss asked for additional clarification as to the specific usage of the new computers being purchased. Harry Pianko discussed.

Vice Chairperson Murray asked if there were any additional questions. There were none.

Vice Chairperson Murray made a motion to approve Resolution 2014-05: Approval of purchase of 3,000 computers.

Motion: Member Pickard

Support: Member Morris

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

The motion was carried.

vi. Resolution 2014-06: Approval to Adopt a Section 125 Flexible Fringe Benefits Plan for EAA Employees

Vice Chairperson Murray asked Chancellor Covington to review Resolution 2014-06: Approval to adopt a Section 125 Flexible Fringe Benefits Plan for EAA employees. Chancellor Covington introduced Harry Pianko who continued with an overview.

Vice Chairperson Murray thanked Harry Pianko for a very thorough overview and asked if there were any additional questions. There were none.

Vice Chairperson Murray made a motion to approve Resolution 2014-06: Approval to adopt a Section 125 Flexible Fringe Benefits Plan for EAA Employees.

Motion: Chairperson Goss

Support: Member Pickard

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

The motion was carried.

V. Chancellor's Update

Vice Chairperson Murray continued on the Agenda to the next item, which was the Chancellor's Update. Chancellor Covington gave an overview of the following:

- Status of upcoming EAA Organizational Audit
- Status of Title I Audit
- Status of Discipline & Attendance Audit
- Status of Contract Review Audit
- Report on Alkebu-Lan Village Contract
- Safe Schools/Healthy Student Grant Award
- Athletic Department Update

Chancellor Covington reviewed the upcoming Organizational Audit.

Vice Chairperson Murray asked that more details be provided on the Organizational Audit. Chancellor Covington indicated that he will provide more information in this regard by the next EAA Board Meeting.

Chancellor Covington reviewed the status of the Title I Audit. Harry Pianko joined the discussion and provided additional information on the status. Vice Chairperson Murray inquired about a third party conducting this audit and a 30 day deadline in which to provide conclusions/findings. Harry Pianko discussed. It is expected that the Title I audit will be completed by the end of this school year.

Vice Chairperson Murray asked about additional contracts being reviewed. Member Schatzel and Harry Pianko joined in on the discussion.

Chancellor Covington proceeded with his update and discussed the Alkebu-Lan Village contract, and more specifically, the following with respect to said contract:

- Alternative Education
- Mentoring
- Credit Recovery for Students
- Title I being the funding source for this contract
- Replacement of the Ombudsman contract

Vice Chairperson Murray inquired about, and discussed the amendment to the Alkebu-Lan Village contract. Dr. Esselman joined in on the discussion and reviewed the credit recovery option that is offered to students via this contract. Tyrone E. Winfrey, Sr. also provided information as to the following with respect to the services being provided by Alkebu-Lan and the EAA's student disciplinary processes:

- An overview of how EAA due process hearings are conducted
- An explanation as to the different services provided to expelled students versus those that are suspended either on a short or long-term basis
- The correlation of the Juvenile Assessment Center

Chairperson Goss asked how many student attend Alkebu-Lan Village on a daily basis. Dr. Mary Esselman discussed. Chairperson Goss stated that she had a lot of regard for Alkebu-Lan Village and asked to revisit/review this contract in an effort to develop and draft terms that were appropriate and equitable for all concerned. Chairperson apologized as she had to cease her attendance via phone.

Vice Chairperson Murray asked for a more thorough overview and explanation of the Juvenile Assessment Center. Mr. Winfrey discussed.

Vice Chairperson Murray subsequently identified the Safe Schools/Healthy Student Grant Award as the next item on the Chancellor's Update. Chancellor Covington introduced Dr. MiUndrae Prince for further discussion on this matter. Dr. Prince provided additional information about this award and reviewed the hiring of EAA's new Project Manager.

Vice Chairperson Murray asked if there were any additional questions. There were none.

Chancellor Covington proceeded to the Athletic Report, which was the next item on his Agenda. Chancellor Covington introduced Robert Giles, Athletic Consultant who provided an overview on the current status of EAA Athletics.

Vice Chairperson Murray commented about Mr. Giles 'common sense' presentation. He also stated that there may be a need for a future presentation about compliance issues associated with athletics. Mr. Giles stated that the EAA was currently in compliance with respect to athletics. Vice Chairperson Murray indicated that he was looking forward to receiving additional updates on the athletic program(s) at the EAA. Chancellor Covington provided additional information about the success of athletic programs at Henry Ford High School.

VI. Curriculum and Instruction

Vice Chairperson Murray proceeded to the next item on the Agenda which was Curriculum and Instruction. Chancellor Covington discussed a proposal for Phoenix Academy to add a high school. He also introduced Dr. Alex Cintron, Principal of Phoenix Academy, and Adam Campbell, Mathew Guyton and Nicole Herman so that they could provide a more comprehensive overview of the proposed addition. Dr. Cintron discussed the following, which notably was located in the EAA Board Packet:

- Next Generation Learning Challenge Grant
- NGLC Seven Design Principles for Breakthrough Schools
- Planning Support
- Why Southwest Detroit
- Current/Proposed Community Engagement
- Proposed Phase-In

Vice Chairperson Murray asked if May 8th would be a good date for an update on Phoenix Academy's proposal. Chancellor Covington asked for additional time in which to provide the Board with a more thorough overview of the proposal. Dr. Cintron discussed.

Vice Chairperson Murray proceeded with the Curriculum and Instruction Report and Dr. Esselman discussed the following:

- The Assessment Report
- District MEAP Comparison
- Percentage of Students Proficient by Grade Level
- Comparison of Pre-EAA and Post EAA – Student Performance
- Reading Performance Series – Individual Student Growth – Benchmark 2
- Math Performance Series – Individual Student Growth – Benchmark 2
- Math Overall Fall/Winter Comparison

Vice Chairperson Murray asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Chancellor Covington introduced Dr. Mary Esselman and indicated that she would be providing information about Teach for America. Dr. Esselman provided an overview of Teach for America.

Vice Chairperson Murray asked if there were any questions. There were none.

VII. Operations Report

Chancellor Covington introduced James Nelson, Chief Technology Officer, who provided an update as to the status of the technology at the EAA. Member Schatzel inquired about the Performance Metrics Plan. Mr. Nelson discussed.

Vice Chairperson Murray proceeded to the Communications Update, which was the next item listed under the Operations Report. Chancellor Covington provided a review of the newly formulated Principal's Digest. Vice Chairperson Murray asked about the format of the Principal's Digest. Chancellor Covington discussed.

Vice Chairperson Murray asked if there were any questions. There were none.

VIII. Financial Report

Vice Chairperson Murray proceeded to the Financial Report for further discussion. Harry Pianko gave an overview of this report and introduced Terri Pollack, Managing Partner from Plante Moran who provided additional information on the following:

- Correction on the Action Status Report
- Segregation of Duties

Vice Chairperson Murray asked if there was full cooperation from EAA staff. Terri Pollack discussed. Vice Chairperson Murray thanked Terri Pollack for her report.

Harry Pianko continued with his presentation and review of the FY2014 Budget vs. the Actual Budget. Vice Chairperson Murray asked about revenue in general. Mr. Pianko discussed.

Vice Chairperson Murray asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Vice Chairperson Murray reminded the EAA Board as well as the public that there would not be a closed session at this time.

IX. New Business

Vice Chairperson Murray proceeded to the public comment section of the Agenda and asked Tyrone E. Winfrey, Sr. to announce each person that had submitted a public comment card. He then reminded the public that there would be a three (3) minute limit.

Helen Moore addressed the Board with the following concerns:

- Visit to Alabama to discuss education – concerned with African-American children's way of learning
- Feels that African-American children are cheated out of their education
- Erroneous information given by the EAA
- Suggested ELECTABLOG website be reviewed by the EAA Board
- Asked why the EAA children are not learning – indicated we need to save the children

Dr. Tom Pedroni addressed the Board with the following concerns:

- EMU Forum
- MEAP data and the EAA's interpretation of that data
- Discussed how the EAA could obtain official MEAP scores/data

Sherry Gay-Dagnogo addressed the Board with the following concerns:

- EAA Being an experiment
- Use of Title I dollars
- Double dipping by the EAA
- Criminal intentions
- MEAP score decline concern
- Credit Recovery program at Alkebu-Lan Village program being a pipeline to prison
- Shut the EAA Down!!

Tracy Peters addressed the Board with the following concerns:

- Indicated that she shared Sherry's passion
- Working against the codification of EAA legislation
- Graduate of Trix Elementary/Middle School and Pershing High School
- Trying to give a voice to people who do not have a voice
- Discussion of Jazmin Barnes – Senior at Mumford High School

Brooke Harris addressed the Board with the following concerns:

- Reviewed anonymous letters from Mumford High School
- Punishment of EAA students who speak out

Reverend Alfonzo Hairston addressed the Board with the following concerns:

- Indicated that he has two children who attended EAA schools
- Graduate of Mumford as well as Wilberforce University
- Grass root efforts to help with the parents being informed
- Leadership concerns with EAA

Steven Howard addressed the Board with the following concerns:

- What will happen to EAA when the DPS Emergency Manager is no longer in place?
- Continued reading letters of concern from Mumford High School students

Bishop Cheryl Myhand addressed the Board and stated the following:

- Thanked the Chancellor for doing a fine job
- Raised concern with respect to individuals passing judgment on Alkebu-Lan Village
- Other alternative options – Asked the public to provide other suggestions in this regard

Carolyn Hines-Taylor addressed the Board and stated the following:

- Provided a testimony as the EAA's effectiveness
- Indicated that the EAA is doing a great job!!
- Gave "kudos" to Alkebu-Lan Village and the work they are doing
- Indicated that she has two children at Southeastern – their self-esteem is now much better

James Beasley addressed the Board with the following concerns:

- Concerned with the EAA schools' infrastructure
- Very critical to success
- Needs to be an Input Forum initiated

Lorraine Richardson addressed the Board with the following concerns:

- Raised questions as to the formation of the EAA
- Discussed the No Child Left Behind Act
- Inquired as to the recruitment process for teachers
- Raised issue as to the attrition rate of teaches

Allie Gross addressed the Board with the following concerns:

- Questioned technology use in the classroom
- Inquired as to the feasibility of new technology updates being implemented when the infrastructure of the schools has not been updated
- Noted that new computers were purchased two years ago – very concerned with the proposed new purchase of computers

Samir Webster addressed the Board with the following concerns:

- EAA/EMU Q&A recently held – Very concerned with the outcome
- Denied the opportunity to speak at the forum held at EMU

- Very excited about the student who spoke on the panel at the EMU forum
- Believes that this student was brought to participate on the panel in an effort to support the EAA Chancellor

X. Adjournment

Vice Chairperson Murray asked for a motion to adjourn the Joint Board of Directors and Executive Committee Meeting.

Motion: Member Wood

Support: Member Treder-Lang

Ayes: 4 Nays: 0

The motion was carried.

Vice Chairperson Murray adjourned the meeting at 5:45 PM

MINUTES CERTIFICATION

Proposed minutes respectfully submitted,

Secretary / Recording Secretary

Date

Approved by the Authority Board,

Secretary / Recording Secretary

Date